

them. I have seen no long-winged specimens of the male. The macropterous females differ from short-winged specimens only in the possession of fully developed organs of flight, which, however, serves to give the insect an appearance of being larger and more bulky than its brachypterous relatives. The wings are of equal length with the elytra, which are rounded apically and extend far beyond the tip of the abdomen, but does not attain to the tip of the ovipositor. The elytra of the Texas specimen measure 50 mm., those of the Virginia individual a couple of mm. less.

PAPILIO THOAS FEEDING ON RUTA GRAVEOLENS.

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On October 21, while in the Old Fashioned Flower Garden, Prospect Park, Brooklyn, N. Y., my attention was drawn to the succulent growth of an herb with deeply cut, blue-green leaves and a number of upstanding stalks which plainly bore evidence of recent defoliation. Upon examination three larvæ of *Papilio thoas* in various stages of growth and one small larva of *Papilio polyxenus* were found. Injury to the plant further showed that it had given support to a much larger number of larvæ.

With only a limited knowledge of botany the determination of the herb no doubt would have given me considerable difficulty, but taking a cue from the known food plants of *P. thoas* (*Citrus*, prickly pear, hop tree, all members of the Rutaceæ or Rue family), the matter really proved very simple. It is *Ruta graveolens*, a strong-scented, acrid herb, indigenous to the Old World, where it was well known for medicinal properties to the ancients and in mediæval times was in common use as a witch's drug.

Wherever procurable *Ruta graveolens* should prove an excellent substitute for the native foodplants of *P. thoas*, because of its rank growth and hardness when placed in a breeding jar.